

Case 2903

***Tropidoptera* Ancey, 1889 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed designation of *Endodonta wesleyi* Sykes, 1896 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the original concept and subsequent understanding of the name *Tropidoptera* Ancey, 1889 for a genus of terrestrial gastropods belonging to the endemic Hawaiian family AMASTRIDAE. The nominal species *Helix alata* Pfeiffer, 1856 was fixed as the type, but this was based on a misidentification and it is proposed that the taxon actually involved be designated as type species; this is *Endodonta (Pterodiscus) wesleyi* Sykes, 1896.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Gastropoda; *Tropidoptera*; *Pterodiscus*; Hawaii.

1. Ancey (1889, p. 191) established the genus *Tropidoptera* for the single nominal species *Helix alata* Pfeiffer, 1856 (p. 33), which is thus the type species by monotypy. Pilsbry (1893, p. 36) introduced the new name *Pterodiscus* as a replacement for *Tropidoptera* Ancey, 1889, incorrectly considering *Tropidoptera* to be preoccupied by *Tropidopterus* Agassiz, 1846 (p. 167) in the Coleoptera. Pilsbry mentioned that *Helix alata* Pfeiffer was the type species and illustrated (pl. 4, fig. 44) what he supposed to be *H. alata*.

2. *Tropidoptera* Ancey, 1889 belongs to the endemic Hawaiian Island family AMASTRIDAE. Pilsbry (1893, p. 36) treated it (under the replacement name *Pterodiscus*) as a section of *Charopa* Martens, 1860, the latter at that time a subgenus of *Endodonta* Albers, 1850 (ENDODONTIDAE). Sykes (1896, p. 127) treated *Pterodiscus* as a subgenus of *Endodonta*, but later (1900, p. 292) regarded it as an independent genus in the ENDODONTIDAE. Pilsbry & Vanatta (1905, p. 572) transferred *Pterodiscus* to the ACHATINELLIDAE, close to their new 'section' *Helicamastra* Pilsbry & Vanatta, 1905 (p. 570) of the genus *Amastra* Adams & Adams, 1855. The type species of *Helicamastra* is *Amastra (Helicamastra) discus* Pilsbry & Vanatta, 1905 (p. 571).

3. Sykes (1896, p. 127), having examined the type specimen of *Helix alata* Pfeiffer (see Hyatt & Pilsbry, 1911, p. 121), pointed out that the '*Helix alata*' of both Ancey (1889) and Pilsbry (1893) did not match *Helix alata* Pfeiffer. Sykes therefore proposed the new name *Endodonta (Pterodiscus) wesleyi* for the specimens identified as *Helix alata* by Ancey and by Pilsbry.

4. As mentioned in para. 2 above, Pilsbry & Vanatta (1905, p. 572) treated *Pterodiscus* as a genus; accepting Sykes's view that Ancey (1889) and Pilsbry (1893) had misidentified *H. alata*, they (p. 571) placed *H. alata* Pfeiffer in *Helicamastra* and (p. 572) said, although invalidly, that *P. wesleyi* (Sykes) was the type species of *Pterodiscus*. Hyatt & Pilsbry (1911, p. 120) synonymised *Pterodiscus* and *Helicamastra*, thereby bringing both *alata* and *wesleyi* into *Pterodiscus* Pilsbry (i.e. *Tropidoptera* Ancey).

5. As outlined above, the original designation of *Helix alata* Pfeiffer as the type species of *Tropidoptera* (and hence of *Pterodiscus*) was based on a misidentification that has been explicitly recognised by subsequent workers (Sykes, 1896, p. 127 and 1900, p. 292; Pilsbry & Vanatta, 1905, p. 572; Hyatt & Pilsbry, 1911, p. 120; Cowie, Evenhuis & Christensen, 1995, p. 117). Under Article 70b of the Code the case is therefore referred to the Commission.

6. The original concept of *Tropidoptera* by Ancey (1889) and of *Pterodiscus* by Pilsbry (1893) was based on the taxon subsequently called *Endodonta* (*Pterodiscus*) *wesleyi* Sykes, 1896 (para. 3 above), and this was recognised as the type species by Hyatt & Pilsbry (1911, p. 119). Its formal designation as such would safeguard the concepts of both *Tropidoptera* and *Helicamastrea* should they be separated in the future.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Tropidoptera* Ancey, 1889 and to designate *Endodonta* (*Pterodiscus*) *wesleyi* Sykes, 1896 as the type species;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Tropidoptera* Ancey, 1889 (gender: feminine), type species *Endodonta* (*Pterodiscus*) *wesleyi* Sykes, 1896 by the designation in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *wesleyi* Sykes, 1896, as published in the binomen *Endodonta* (*Pterodiscus*) *wesleyi* (specific name of the type species of *Tropidoptera* Ancey, 1889);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Pterodiscus* Pilsbry, 1893, a junior objective synonym of *Tropidoptera* Ancey, 1889.

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